

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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POINT BEACH LICENSE RENEWAL

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TUESDAY

JUNE 15, 2004

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MISHICOT, WISCONSIN

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The Point Beach License Renewal Public Meeting
met at The Fox Hills Resort, 250 West Church Street,
Mishicot, Wisconsin at 6:59 p.m., CHIP CAMERON, Special
Counsel, presiding.

PRESENT FOR THE NRC:

CHIP CAMERON
JOHN TAPPERT
BARRY ZALCMAN
P.T. KUO

P R O C E E D I N G S

(6:59 P.M.)

MR. CAMERON: We have the official Two Rivers timekeeper here so we're going to get started. Yes, I think it's a good idea.

Good evening, everyone. My name is Chip Cameron and I'm the Special Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC. And welcome to the NRC meeting tonight.

Our subject tonight is the environmental review that the NRC is going to perform as part of its evaluation of an application that we received from the Nuclear Management Corporation to renew the operating licenses for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2. And I'm going to serve as your facilitator tonight, and in that role, I'll try to assist you in having a productive meeting.

I just want to say a couple of words about meeting process issues before we get into the substance of tonight's discussion. First of all, our format tonight is going to be a two-part format. And during the first part, we're going to have a brief NRC presentation on the background of license renewal, and specifically the environmental process connected to our license renewal review process. And then we'll go on to you to see if there's any questions that we can answer for you about the process.

The second part of the meeting is to give you an opportunity to give us any advice, recommendations, comments on what types of information and issues we should look at in doing our environmental review. And we'll give you an opportunity to make a

1 more formal comment to us and either come up to the podium here or I
2 can bring you this cordless microphone. Whatever you say tonight is
3 going to count as much as any written comment that we have received.

4 In a few minutes, the NRC is going to tell you how to
5 submit written comments on these issues, but we are taking a
6 transcript tonight. Stuart Karoubas is our transcriber and that will
7 be a record of the meeting with your comments in it and it will be
8 available to the public if you want to see what happened either in
9 tonight's meeting or we did a meeting this afternoon also.

10 In terms of ground rules, they're very simple. When we
11 get to the question and answer period, if you have a question, just
12 signal me and I'll bring you the cordless mike, give us your name and
13 affiliation if appropriate and we'll try to do our best to answer your
14 question. I would ask that only one person speak at a time. I don't
15 think that's going to be a problem for us, but we do want to get a
16 clean transcript and we do want to pay attention to whomever has the
17 floor at the time.

18 And generally, try to keep it brief and to the point
19 when we get to the formal public comment part of the meeting. If you
20 could follow a guideline of five to seven or so minutes, that will
21 make sure that we have a chance to hear from everybody. I don't think
22 that that will be a problem, again, but if you could follow that, that
23 might be helpful but don't worry too much about it.

24 In terms of our presenters from the NRC tonight, first
25 of all we're going to hear from John Tappert who is going to give you

1 sort of an overall context on the license renewal process. And John
2 is the Chief of the Environmental Impacts Section within our License
3 Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program. And John and his staff,
4 they're responsible for preparing any of the environmental reviews
5 that are done on a reactor licensing issue such as license renewal,
6 early site permits or anything else.

7 And John has been with the NRC for approximately 14
8 years. He has been a resident inspector for the NRC, and as many of
9 you know, the resident inspectors are NRC employees who actually are
10 located at the reactor site to make sure that NRC regulations are
11 complied with. Before John came to the NRC, he was in the nuclear
12 navy. And in terms of education, he has a Bachelor's degree from
13 Virginia Tech in Aeronautical and Ocean Engineering, and a Master's
14 degree from Johns Hopkins University in Environmental Engineering.

15 Then we're going to go to really the substance of the
16 NRC process. And we have Mr. Barry Zalzman right here who is acting
17 as the project manager for the environmental review on this license
18 renewal application. And Barry is in John's section and he's been
19 with the Agency for 25 years. And in that time, he has been involved
20 with a lot of issues and a lot of the cutting edge issues in the
21 development of the Commission's regulatory framework for the
22 regulation of nuclear reactors: reactor siting issues, the
23 environmental review process and also emergency planning.

24 He is going to give you the overview of the process.
25 Barry was with a company called Dames & Moore, environmental

1 consulting company before he came to the Commission. His
2 undergraduate work was in environmental sciences and his graduate work
3 was in meteorology and something called geophysical fluid dynamics at
4 Rutgers University.

5 And with that, I would -- well, let me introduce one
6 other person who is a senior NRC official who is with us tonight, and
7 that's Mr. P.T. Kuo. P.T. is the Branch Chief, the head of the
8 License Renewal and Environmental Impact Program at the NRC. And
9 that's where all of the license renewal work gets done, be it on the
10 environmental side or be it on the safety evaluation side. So, thank
11 you for being here, P.T.

12 DR. KUO: Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: And I would just thank all of you for
14 being here with us tonight. And we look forward to hearing the
15 presentation and answering questions and hearing from you. And John?

16 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. And good evening,
17 everyone, and welcome. And for those of you who attended our matinee
18 session, welcome back.

19 My name is John Tappert. And on behalf of the Nuclear
20 Regulatory Commission, I'd like to thank everyone for coming out here
21 tonight to participate in this process. I hope that the information
22 that we will share with you today will be helpful. We look forward to
23 receiving your comments both today and in the future.

24 I'd like to start today by going over the purposes and
25 agenda of today's meeting. First of all, Barry is going to give you

1 an overview of the entire license renewal process. This includes both
2 the safety review as well as an environmental review which will be the
3 principal focus of today's meeting. I'll give you some more details
4 on that environmental review which will assess the impacts associated
5 with extending the operating licenses of Point Beach Units 1 and 2 for
6 an additional 20 years. Then I'll give you some information about the
7 balance of our review schedule and how you can contact us in the
8 future.

9 And then we get to the real purpose of why we're having
10 this meeting here tonight, which is to receive your comments. But
11 before we get to that overview, let me give you some brief context for
12 the regulatory framework of license renewal.

13 The Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the authority to
14 issue operating licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a
15 period of 40 years. For Point Beach Units 1 and 2, those operating
16 licenses will expire in 2010 and 2013 respectively. Our regulations
17 also make provisions for extending those operating licenses for an
18 additional 20 years as part of our license renewal program. And NRC
19 has requested license renewal for both units.

20 As part of the NRC's review of that application, we will
21 be developing an environmental impact statement. Right now, we're in
22 the very early phases of that review and what we call scoping which is
23 when we seek to identify those issues which will require the greatest
24 focus during our review. And this public meeting here tonight is an
25 important part of that scoping process to help identify those issues.

1 After we do our preliminary analysis, we will publish a
2 draft environmental impact statement next January. And soon
3 thereafter, we will return here to have another set of public meetings
4 to seek your comments on our review.

5 And that, in a nutshell, is what we are about to do, but
6 Barry is going to give you more of the overview, and then we look
7 forward to your comments.

8 MR. ZALCMAN: Thank you, John. Welcome, everybody. As
9 John indicated, I'm the acting project manager for the Point Beach
10 license renewal environmental review. I'll be introducing some other
11 folks that are with us here tonight, additional resources to assist if
12 there are questions. We can call upon them as well. You may want to
13 chat with them after the meeting if there is an area of interest where
14 they have a particular expertise.

15 Some of the additional NRC staff work in the Washington,
16 DC area with me; some are in the regional office located in Chicago.
17 Just as you are aware from Chip's introductory remarks, we also have
18 resident inspectors that are housed at the facility conducting
19 inspections there day in and day out. In addition to that, we also
20 have a team of experts that are working with us from a number of
21 National Laboratories. And those folks are from Los Alamos National
22 Lab, Lawrence Livermore National Lab and Argonne National Laboratory.

23 With that, let me start off with Stacey Imboden. Stacey
24 is with us tonight. She is a project manager in our staff. She'll be
25 assisting me for the moment in the scoping process. Also with us is

1 Paul Schumann. Paul is the project team leader from Los Alamos
2 National Lab. He and a team of experts will assist the staff in
3 conducting the environmental review.

4 With that, let me also express my appreciation for the
5 time you are willing to spend with us tonight. And hopefully we'll
6 have some meaningful discussion and dialogue. You are essential
7 stakeholders in this process. We generally look forward to your
8 contribution. We often characterize it as we may be experts in our
9 field but we don't have the local expertise. There's insights and
10 information that perhaps you can share with us about the environmental
11 arena that we're coming into as we conduct our environmental review.

12 Before I get to the discussion of license renewal, let
13 me talk about some items about the NRC, provide a little more
14 background, talk about the NRC's mission. Talk about the important
15 distinction between the safety review and the environmental review,
16 and hopefully to provide a context to help you better understand why
17 we're here today and what we hope to accomplish.

18 The NRC's mission is threefold: (1) to protect the
19 public health and safety; (2) to provide for common defense and
20 security; (3) and to protect the environment. The first two,
21 protecting public health and safety and providing for common defense
22 and security are responsibilities that we enjoy under the Atomic
23 Energy Act. They are safety issues. Protecting the environment is
24 our responsibility in implementing the National Environmental Policy
25 Act.

1 The NRC accomplishes this mission through a variety of
2 different regulatory programs and processes. Some of these include
3 inspection activities, enforcement actions, assessment of performance
4 and evaluation of operating experience. In some respects the NRC
5 license renewal process is quite similar to the original licensing of
6 the facility in that we conduct both a safety review as well as an
7 environmental review. The one important aspect that's fundamentally
8 different: the facility is already operating, and if it's allowed to
9 operate, then it complies with NRC regulatory requirements.

10 The NRC's safety responsibility is an ongoing
11 responsibility. The NRC is always involved in reviewing current
12 operating issues. So, as we conduct the license renewal review, the
13 NRC considers both the current operating issues and aging management
14 issues. Current operating issues are those already covered by the
15 NRC's regulatory oversight under the current operating license. So,
16 these safety issues are considered routinely whether or not a license
17 holder seeks to renew its license.

18 These are the issues of today, and the NRC expects them
19 to be addressed today. Consequently, the Commission determined that
20 the license renewal review must frame its focus on the issues of
21 tomorrow. And from a safety perspective, that is the aging management
22 issues, and that is new programs that must be put in place to be able
23 to maintain the equipment through the renewal period.

24 The NRC expects that the well-established safety
25 programs dealing with, as examples, preventative maintenance,

1 emergency planning, security and others, will continue to comply with
2 existing NRC regulatory requirements, and therefore, will continue to
3 be subject to the existing NRC regulatory program. As a result, these
4 programs need not be assessed as part of a license renewal review.

5 And we talk about that process now. License renewal,
6 the safety review focuses on aging management issues and the new
7 programs necessary to maintain equipment. The kinds of issues subject
8 to license renewal review include the long-lived passive components of
9 the plant but are not covered routinely under existing preventative
10 maintenance programs. NRC staff compiles the results of its review in
11 a Safety Evaluation Report (SER). In conjunction with the SER, the
12 NRC conducts safety audits and conducts the safety inspections to
13 verify the adequacy of the aging management programs.

14 The SER is then subject to the scrutiny and independent
15 evaluation of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS).
16 The ACRS is a group of academic and industry experts that serve as
17 direct consultants to the Commission. The committee itself was
18 established by the Atomic Energy Act to provide technical advice to
19 the Commission.

20 The Commission determined that the NRC's environmental
21 review should be thorough and should involve the public. Staff
22 evaluation of the environmental impacts of license renewal cover the
23 full range of issues which include the biological sciences, the
24 physical sciences, the social sciences and the radiological sciences.
25 NRC compiles the staff report with the results of its review in an

1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report is then subject to
2 the scrutiny and independent review of experts like you.

3 The requirement to issue a statement on the
4 environmental impacts was established by the National Environmental
5 Policy Act. And the implementing regulations for the executive branch
6 were established by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the
7 President's Council on Environmental Quality. Since the NRC is an
8 independent regulatory agency, that is, we're not part of the
9 executive branch, we voluntarily implemented environmental protection
10 regulations, and for the most part our regulations are consistent with
11 the rest of the federal family.

12 Part of the environmental review leading to an
13 environmental impact statement is the scoping process. And that's why
14 we're here today and that's why we're seeking your input. As John
15 indicated, the scoping process allows us to frame the issues that
16 would be reviewed and to engage you directly to receive your insights
17 on the environmental issues that you believe are important for this
18 review.

19 This slide provides a consolidated description of the
20 license renewal process. It's the same slide that we provided to you
21 at the NRC's license renewal information meeting that was held in this
22 area in March of this year. As you can see, the process involves the
23 two parallel paths that I've discussed. The upper portion is the
24 safety review and the lower portion the environmental review.

25 NRC has a team of about 30 NRC technical reviewers and

1 contractors who are conducting the safety review right now. Let me
2 introduce Mike Morgan who is the Safety Project Manager. He is my
3 counterpart on this project. Mike made the presentation to you back
4 in the March time frame. We did that early in the review process so
5 you could decide how you want to participate or if you want to
6 participate with us as we conduct our review.

7 It's Mike's side of the house that conducts the safety
8 review, focusing on the effectiveness of the proposed aging management
9 programs that were contained in the license renewal application. Mike
10 and his team reviews the proposed aging management programs to ensure
11 that safety can be maintained throughout the license renewal period
12 that is going from 40 to 60 years. The SER documents results of the
13 staff review, as I discussed, a copy of that is provided to the ACRS
14 for their independent evaluation.

15 The safety review process also involves audits and
16 onsite inspections. These inspections will be conducted by a team of
17 inspectors from both NRC headquarters as well as NRC's regional office
18 in Chicago. Representatives from our inspection program are also here
19 with us today. Tony Vogel and Laura Kozak are here from Region III in
20 Chicago.

21 Results of the license renewal inspection will be
22 documented in a separate inspection report.

23 Now, the focus of today's activities. The lower portion
24 of the slide, the environmental review. The scoping process will help
25 refine the scope of issues as we develop the environmental impact

1 statement to decide whether or not the operating license should be
2 renewed. And just so you know that we're not starting with an empty
3 slate, the Commission gave considerable thought to this process
4 already, considered many of the environmental issues that may be
5 involved with license renewal, and took a hard look at what came to be
6 about a hundred environmental issues.

7 We did that to determine whether or not some of the
8 issues and their environmental impacts were common or generic to all
9 plants. This effort took over five years and it helps us now focus on
10 those unique issues that could only be resolved on a site-specific
11 basis. Consequently, the EIS we'll develop for Point Beach will be a
12 site-specific environmental impact statement and will take the form of
13 a site-specific supplement to the GEIS or the Generic Environmental
14 Impact Statement.

15 The GEIS is also known as NUREG-1437 and the site-
16 specific supplement for Point Beach will be Supplement Number 23.
17 From that, it should be apparent that we've completed a number of
18 these already. The supplement or SEIS will be issued for public
19 comment. We'll come back here to give you an opportunity to share
20 your views with us on the draft, we'll reflect on the comments that
21 you offer and make adjustments where necessary before we issue the
22 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in final form.

23 So, as you can see from this slide, the final Agency
24 decision on whether to approve or to deny the application for license
25 renewal will factor in a number of items: the safety review and the

1 safety evaluation report; environmental review and the environmental
2 impact statement; the inspection reports issued by our regional
3 office; and the reporting out of their findings by the ACRS.

4 I want to draw your attention to the bursts on this
5 slide because they indicate the opportunities for public
6 participation. The first opportunity is during this meeting. We'll
7 distill the information you share with us and carry forward those that
8 are in scope in the environmental review. The next opportunity for
9 public involvement during the environmental review is when we share
10 the results of our report and request that you comment on the Draft
11 EIS.

12 Separately from the technical reviews, if a petition was
13 filed to intervene on this action, and the petitioner, either an
14 individual or a group, has demonstrated its interest and adequately
15 details its concerns, then a hearing may be granted by the Atomic
16 Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) or by the Commission itself. The window
17 of opportunity to request the hearing just ended. While we're aware
18 that there were no electronic filings, we'll be checking the mail to
19 determine whether or not a petition was actually filed.

20 Unlike some other types of licensing actions, as
21 examples, a new site approval or a new construction approval, a
22 hearing is not mandatory for license renewal. An NRC hearing is a
23 formal legal process presided over by a panel of three administrative
24 judges. And we also have a member from the General Counsel's Office
25 with us today, Ann Hodgdon. She's one of several staff attorneys that

1 assist the technical staff on legal and hearing issues.

2 So, in the end, if a hearing is granted, then the
3 schedule for the license renewal decision process runs about 30
4 months. If there is no hearing, it should take about 22 months.

5 Okay. Now, I'll provide you with a little more on NEPA,
6 the National Environmental Policy Act. We'll continue on to the
7 environmental decision standard, the environmental review that we plan
8 to conduct, our schedule and your points of contact.

9 The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)
10 requires that federal agencies follow a systematic approach in
11 evaluating potential environmental impacts associated with certain
12 actions. As a regulatory agency, the NRC issues licenses. The
13 issuance of or amendment to a license is a federal action. Some
14 actions that fall into a certain category such as administrative
15 actions are not subject to environmental review. For other types, the
16 NRC is required to consider the impact of proposed actions and ways to
17 mitigate or reduce the consequences of those actions if they could be
18 significant.

19 The NRC staff is required to consider alternatives to
20 proposed actions. In this case, the proposed action is license
21 renewal, and the alternatives must include among others a no-action
22 alternative. In other words, the NRC must consider the environmental
23 impacts of disapproving the proposal as part of its review. The NRC
24 would consider the impacts of, for example, new plant construction as
25 an alternative to replace the electrical energy supply when Point

1 Beach would cease operations. Therefore, NEPA leads to informed
2 decision-making.

3 As part of our review, we'll also look at cumulative
4 impacts. After all, there is another nuclear power plant just up the
5 road in Kewaunee.

6 The National Environmental Policy Act and our
7 environmental impact statements are disclosure tools. They are
8 specifically structured to involve public participation. This scoping
9 process and particularly this type of meeting that we're conducting is
10 our way of facilitating your participation in the environmental review
11 process. Other agencies have different ways of implementing NEPA.

12 The Commission has determined that an environmental
13 impact statement will be prepared as part of our review of license
14 renewal applications for all nuclear power plants. An EIS affords the
15 public the greatest level of participation in the NRC's environmental
16 review for a licensing action.

17 So, in preparing the EIS, this and other opportunities
18 exist to provide your insights. We look forward to listening to your
19 views on the significant environmental issues that should be analyzed
20 in depth. We are now gathering the information to develop the EIS.
21 We're looking to identify whether there are special issues that the
22 staff should consider for the proposed renewal of Point Beach Units 1
23 and 2.

24 As I indicated earlier, having developed the GEIS that
25 addressed the number of issues that were common to all nuclear plants,

1 it was issued in 1996. So, we're also looking to identify whether
2 there is new and significant information related to those resolved
3 issues to determine whether such information would have a bearing on
4 the earlier conclusion. A number of issues can only be resolved on a
5 site-specific basis. So, we're looking for information that's unique
6 to the site and surrounding area that could be affected by a decision
7 to renew the Point Beach operating licenses.

8 This slide states the decision standard for the
9 environmental review drawn directly from our rules. Simply stated, we
10 are to determine whether the impacts of operation for another 20 years
11 are so great that we should preclude renewal. An important element of
12 this decision standard is the recognition that the NRC does not
13 dictate whether the plant will operate. That decision is left to the
14 license holder and the response of the Public Service Commission and
15 others.

16 In our portion of the license renewal review, the NRC
17 will only determine whether or not the plant can operate. But even
18 that is not sufficient to operate because there are a myriad of other
19 federal and state requirements, licenses and permits that must be in
20 proper order to operate Point Beach. Our NEPA review and the
21 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will disclose the status
22 of all of those permits.

23 This slide now expands the lower portion of the earlier
24 schematic. It illustrates the environmental review in greater detail
25 and gives you a sense of the schedule that the review will take place.

1 We received the application from Nuclear Management
2 Company on February 26th of this year. On May 13th, we issued a Federal
3 Register Notice indicating our intent to prepare an environmental
4 impact statement and to begin the scoping process. The formal notice
5 started a 60-day clock defined as the scoping period.

6 At the end of the scoping period which is July 14th,
7 we'll compile all the comments received and determine whether they are
8 within or outside the scope of the environmental review. And if they
9 are in scope, then we'll carry them forward. We'll be issuing a
10 scoping summary report that will address all the comments that we'll
11 receive from you today and throughout the scoping period.

12 In the next several days, the NRC environmental staff
13 and its team of experts from your National Laboratories are conducting
14 a site environmental audit to gather information to assist us in the
15 environmental review. If during our review we require additional
16 information from the applicant beyond the information that already
17 exists in the public domain, then we'll issue a request for additional
18 information. Our schedule calls for that request to be issued in
19 early August and we would expect a response by November.

20 Thereafter, we expect to publish the Draft Supplemental
21 Environmental Impact Statement by January of next year. At a midpoint
22 in the 75-day public comment period which is in February of next year,
23 we expect to come back, share our findings with you and seek your
24 comment on the draft. Finally, after considering your comments, we
25 expect to publish the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in

1 final form in September of next year.

2 Okay. As I wind down, this slide shows some of the
3 sources of information that will help us frame our review. In
4 addition to our environmental audit activities, we'll be communicating
5 with federal, state, tribal and local governmental officials as well
6 as local service agencies. Some of these interactions have already
7 occurred and some will occur later in the week and during the course
8 of our review.

9 We consider all the comments received from the public.
10 As Chip indicated earlier, a comment that you make today will have
11 exactly the same standing as a comment that we may receive in writing.

12 I mentioned earlier that we established an environmental
13 review team made up of NRC staff and National Lab experts. The NRC
14 staff alone has over a hundred years experience on this team, both in
15 the environmental and radiological arena. This slide gives you a feel
16 for the number of areas that the experts will evaluate as part of the
17 review. They include terrestrial and aquatic ecology, air and water
18 quality, land and water use, radiation protection, meteorology and
19 hydrology, cultural resources, archaeology, socio-economics and the
20 like. The EIS will be a comprehensive assessment involving all of
21 these disciplines.

22 So, let me recap a couple of the key milestone dates in
23 our schedule. The scoping period ends on July 14th. There may be
24 something that you hear today that causes you to reflect upon an
25 issue, so even if you offer comments today you can send in additional

1 comments by the July 14th date. The draft of Supplement Number 23 to
2 the GEIS or the Point Beach site-specific EIS for license renewal will
3 be issued in January 2005 for a 75-day public comment period. And
4 again, we'll come back probably in this same location to meet with you
5 again. After considering your comments on the draft and resolving
6 them as we conduct our final review, the completion of the
7 environmental impact statement, it will be issued in final form in
8 September of 2005.

9 For the rest of the scoping process, I'll be your
10 primary point of contact with the NRC. When I'm finished with this,
11 we'll give it back to Chip to give you the opportunity to ask
12 questions on the process and this environmental review and the
13 schedule. A number of us will be staying here after the meeting. If
14 you see anybody with a badge on their outfit, they will be happy to
15 take questions from you then. As well, if something comes up after
16 the comment portion of this meeting, we'd like a little followup.
17 After you leave, if you have questions, then you can call on me and
18 we'll get the right people to talk with you.

19 The slide also identifies where documents related to our
20 review may be found in the local area. Staff at the Lester Public
21 Library have graciously agreed to make the license renewal application
22 available for public access. Additional information will be developed
23 during the course of our review and they've agreed to capture that
24 information as well. They have a file cabinet set aside outside the
25 librarian's desk at the reference desk area.

1 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will also be
2 available at the Lester Public Library. They will also be available
3 on our web site: www.nrc.gov. And as you came in tonight and
4 registered with Audrey or Stacey, you were asked to fill out a card.
5 And if you included your address on that, we'd be happy to send a copy
6 of the draft to you as well. If you didn't, we'll be happy to take
7 your name after the meeting.

8 Finally, in addition to providing comments at this
9 meeting, there are other ways you can submit comments for our
10 environmental review. You can mail them directly to the Chief of the
11 Rules and Directives Branch at NRC. You can deliver them if you
12 happen to be in the Rockville, Maryland area. We would be happy to
13 meet with you there. We've established a specific email address at
14 the NRC for the purpose of receiving your comments. That email
15 address is PointBeachEIS@nrc.gov.

16 And as I close out, there is one last important item.
17 As you walked in tonight, there was a form in that packet, it was a
18 pre-addressed franked form. We're trying to get feedback on the
19 effectiveness in our presentations as we conduct our public
20 interactions. If you have an opportunity to fill that out, that would
21 help us in shaping the information that we provide to the public and
22 allows you to have meaningful interactions with us.

23 So, with that, let me turn you back to Chip, and again,
24 thank you so much for spending your time with us tonight. I look
25 forward to a healthy dialogue.

1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Barry. Do we have
2 questions for Barry about the license renewal process? Yes, sir? And
3 please give us your name and affiliation if you have one.

4 MR. NIKOLAI: John Nikolai, just a concerned citizen. I
5 guess you have approximately what, 16 or 17 license renewal
6 applications ongoing in the United States at present, right?

7 MR. ZALCMAN: I think the count --

8 MR. NIKOLAI: Or a little more in there?

9 MR. ZALCMAN: I think the count is nine.

10 MR. NIKOLAI: Nine now?

11 MR. ZALCMAN: Nine are going on simultaneously.

12 MR. NIKOLAI: I'm really leading up to the aging of the
13 plant basically. Have any of those plants been in operation much
14 longer than the Point Beach Plant that you know of?

15 MR. ZALCMAN: Well, let me give you a little bit on the
16 framework of the rule itself. The rule requires that an applicant
17 must have at least 20 years of operation before submitting their
18 application. So, the applications that we have been receiving at
19 least have 20, unless there are some peculiar situations like a sister
20 plant had 20 but another unit at the same location may have had 19 or
21 18.

22 The key is to gain sufficient understanding of the aging
23 mechanisms already in place at the facility. And the 20-year period
24 was a meaningful time frame to have experience prior to submitting a
25 license renewal application. Some may be in the 30-year range, some

1 may be closing in on the 40-year range, but all have at least 20 years
2 of experience prior to submitting their application.

3 MR. NIKOLAI: Have you actually renewed licenses at some
4 of the nuclear plants in the United States as of this time for an
5 additional, you know, 20 years or 10 years or 15 years?

6 MR. ZALCMAN: Well, let me refer to a point that I made
7 earlier. This is the 23rd supplement that we're working on. We have
8 already granted the renewed licenses for certainly more than a dozen.
9 It may be, I don't know, P.T. has the exact count.

10 DR. KUO: Let's see. We have about -- as to last count,
11 I believe, we have probably nearer to 23 units.

12 MR. NIKOLAI: So, out of all our plants, you have
13 renewed 23 so far?

14 DR. KUO: So far.

15 MR. NIKOLAI: And you have nine including Point Beach in
16 the works?

17 DR. KUO: Not including Point Beach.

18 MR. NIKOLAI: Not including.

19 DR. KUO: Right.

20 MR. NIKOLAI: So, it would be ten with Point Beach.

21 DR. KUO: The ones that we have issued that renewed the
22 licenses already.

23 MR. NIKOLAI: Already, you renewed the licenses for 23
24 plants?

25 DR. KUO: Yes, I believe that's the number.

1 MR. NIKOLAI: Right. And with Point Beach you have ten
2 licenses up for renewal. The reason I'm asking this, I'm just kind of
3 figuring in my mind what the percentages are of approval. I realize
4 that site-specific is very important in this.

5 DR. KUO: Right now we have 14 units under review.

6 MR. NIKOLAI: Okay. Thank you very much.

7 DR. KUO: You're welcome.

8 MR. CAMERON: Does that answer your question?

9 MR. NIKOLAI: Pretty much.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Nikolai.

11 MR. ZALCMAN: Let me just expand on that just so you
12 understand. We've been talking about plants which could be multiple
13 units. Right, multiple units. So, Dr. Kuo was referring to 23 units
14 have already been licensed.

15 We have not, if you're asking if we have rejected a
16 license renewal application yet, to date we have not. Although in the
17 early stages of developing this process, one of the pilot facilities
18 that thought that they would seek license renewal elected to shut down
19 rather than continue operation much less seek license renewal. So, it
20 is a robust, a very detailed review that we go through.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Nikolai. Are there any
22 other questions that anybody has either about the process or specific
23 application of the process like Mr. Nikolai's question?

24 Okay. Well, we're going to go to -- thank you very
25 much, Barry. We're going to go to the formal comment part of the

1 meeting and we'll check in with you later to see if there's any
2 additional questions that you might have. And we're going to go to
3 local officials first.

4 And first, we're going to go to the Sheriff's
5 Department, Mr. Robert Hermann of the Sheriff's Department, Manitowoc
6 County. Mr. Hermann, would you like to use this or come up to the
7 podium? Okay, great. Thank you.

8 MR. HERMANN: Okay. First, what I'd like to do is read
9 just a prepared statement from our Sheriff. And basically what it
10 says is:

11 "Ladies and gentlemen: Since late 1979, the Manitowoc
12 County Sheriff's Department has worked to develop a close working
13 relationship with Point Beach Nuclear Plant staff. This came about as
14 the world changed and a need for law enforcement and security to work
15 for a common goal was identified. In the following years, we
16 identified needs of the plant relating to security with plant
17 personnel. The system was fine-tuned to meet the needs of the
18 operation."

19 "Supporting each other as our resources have allowed, we
20 have shared numerous training activities, equipment, and provided
21 extra patrol both on land and water. The power plant has provided
22 needed equipment and allowed us to train at the facility."

23 "Point Beach has proven to be a good neighbor and an
24 asset to the Manitowoc County community. We look forward to a lasting
25 relationship and encourage license renewal. Sincerely, Kenneth J.

1 Peterson, Sheriff, Manitowoc County."

2 I would just like to add to that that, you know, my
3 personal experience, I've been with the Sheriff's Department,
4 currently I am the Under Sheriff for Manitowoc County. And my
5 personal experience with the nuclear plant has been very positive. I
6 have participated in numerous joint training exercises there and just
7 had great cooperation. We've assisted a lot as far as providing
8 additional law enforcement to the plant in their times of need and the
9 cooperation has been great. So, thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Under Sheriff Hermann.

11 Next, we're going to hear from Mr. Dan Pawlitzke. And Dan is the
12 economic development supervisor for the City of Two Rivers.

13 MR. PAWLITZKE: Thanks for letting us comment. I have
14 this, you know, three or four-phased area basically, the introduction,
15 past, present, future and then a conclusion statement. And then, I'll
16 just give this to the appropriate NRC individuals for the inclusion in
17 the record.

18 Basically, the City of Two Rivers offers its support for
19 Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant license renewal for Unit No. 1 which
20 needs to be renewed as indicated before October 5th, 2010, and Unit 2
21 which needs to be renewed by March 8th, 2013. The City of Two Rivers
22 has passed a resolution of support of Point Beach Nuclear Power
23 license renewal dated April 5th, 2004. Such resolution of support is
24 attached from the Two Rivers City Council.

25 In the past, Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant has called

1 Two Rivers home since 1969 and has come to be vital to our economy and
2 lifestyle. Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant started in 1969 and
3 brought 100 employees and has seen a 700 percent increase in its
4 workforce to the existing 700 employees in 2004. Energy production is
5 a significant employer in our community now and hopefully will be well
6 into the future. These are high quality jobs that are hard to find in
7 today's economy. Nuclear energy in general, and Point Beach in
8 particular, have proven to be safe, efficient and an economical source
9 of electricity.

10 Getting on to the present, the city fathers who are the
11 leaders, the decision makers of the community find that Point Beach
12 Nuclear Power has operated safely and efficiently and provides clean,
13 affordable nuclear generated electrical power to our homes, businesses
14 and factories. Point Beach Nuclear Power is an environmentally
15 friendly source of electrical base load power as compared to other
16 forms of electrical generation. As you know, Point Beach Nuclear
17 Power generates 1,036 Megawatts of electrical power which is 20
18 percent of WE Energies generation and almost 17 percent of all power
19 in the State of Wisconsin. That's a lot of power. The state as a
20 whole cannot afford to lose 17 percent of its total capacity.

21 The economic impact of the 700 employees at Point Beach
22 Nuclear Power can be felt in the local communities where they live.
23 69 percent of Point Beach Nuclear Plant employees live in Manitowoc
24 County. Of that, 32 percent live in Two Rivers who are employed, 24
25 percent live in Manitowoc and 8 percent right here in Mishicot.

1 Manitowoc County has been hit hard on the economic front
2 by having factories close at a fast pace. Manitowoc County population
3 is approximately 83,000 people with a workforce of about 44,000. And
4 presently, we have a 9.3 percent unemployment rate.

5 Mirro, a Manitowoc employer that formerly had plants in
6 Two Rivers, had over 2,000 employees as recently as 1998. That number
7 today is as if nothing. No jobs. Those jobs are gone, never to
8 return. They're going to Mexico and China.

9 Another company, Paragon Electric at one time had 1,000
10 employees in Two Rivers. They left for Mexico in 1998, leaving 330
11 employees without a job. More recently, Hamilton Industries, a
12 subsidiary of -- Scientific announced a potential layoff of 150
13 employees. All previous companies relocated to Mexico, or in
14 Hamilton's case has a potential to leave for Mexico.

15 Power companies do not have the luxury of leaving for
16 Mexico. They are here for the long haul. Point Beach Nuclear Power
17 Plant has been a good corporate citizen by annually contributing to
18 the excellent quality of life for the families right here in Two
19 Rivers.

20 Getting on to the future, Wisconsin Electrical Power
21 increases on the average of two and a half to three percent per year.
22 If Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant's license is not renewed, its
23 electrical generation capacity would have to be replaced. The likely
24 replacement is some sort of fossil fuel. As air quality becomes more
25 and more of an issue in Wisconsin, especially along the Lake Shore

1 which sees much of its pollution, air pollution that is imported, the
2 license renewal of Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant can serve to help
3 protect our local environment.

4 This process of license renewal is not new for the
5 Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As the Doctor had indicated before,
6 Point Beach Nuclear Power is one of 19 active license renewals. As a
7 matter of fact, 23 have already been approved by the NRC. Our
8 experience indicates that Point Beach Nuclear Power is an excellent
9 candidate for license renewal.

10 Finally and in conclusion, the license renewal of Point
11 Beach Nuclear Power Plant presents a unique opportunity to create a
12 win-win-win scenario for the rate payers, taxpayers, the state and our
13 community by: (1) continuously producing less expensive base load
14 electrical power for all use in an environmentally clean and
15 responsible manner; (2) preserving hundreds of well-paying jobs that
16 help attract young, successful people to Wisconsin and the Lake Shore
17 area; and (3) WE Energies wins by owning and operating Point Beach
18 Nuclear Power for obviously, for the rate payers and consumers of
19 electrical power.

20 The families of Point Beach Nuclear Power have become a
21 vital and vibrant part of our community. They serve on our elected
22 and appointed governmental bodies, volunteer with our civic groups and
23 are important members and leaders of our churches and our children go
24 together. These employees care about the community because they live,
25 work and play here, too. The community has formed a -- of trust with

1 Point Beach Nuclear Power because the plant over many years has proven
2 to be a good neighbor and an important drive in our local economy.

3 We urge the NRC to approve the license renewal for Point
4 Beach Nuclear Power in order that all stakeholders can share in the
5 win-win-win relationship. If you have any other questions, you
6 certainly can contact me at the information here, and the renewal
7 resolution is here also.

8 MR. ZALCMAN: Thank you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pawlitzke. We're
10 going to go to some officials from the owner of Point Beach and
11 operator of Point Beach now to hear about their vision and rationale
12 for license renewal. And first of all, we're going to hear from Mr.
13 Rick Kuester. And Rick is the President and CEO of WE Energies.

14 MR. KUESTER: Yes, I'm the Executive Vice President of
15 Wisconsin Energy and President and CEO of the WE Energies Generation
16 Group. And thank you, Chip.

17 Good evening. Thanks for letting me be here and speak
18 on behalf of WE Energies for the license renewal of Point Beach.

19 Today, I want to share why we believe that license
20 renewal is the most responsible energy choice for the state, for the
21 local area and for our customers. As you know, Nuclear Management
22 Company which operates the plant on a day-to-day basis on behalf of WE
23 Energies applied in February to renew the licenses for the two units
24 at Point Beach. Part of that application included an environmental
25 report, and we will continue to provide additional information as part

1 of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's process to evaluate the
2 environmental effects of operating Point Beach for an additional 20
3 years. The NRC will use the information that we and others provide to
4 develop an environmental impact statement for Point Beach.

5 Let me just start by giving you a brief overview of the
6 plant. Some of these figures you've heard so bear with me if I go
7 through them twice. The original operating license for Point Beach
8 Unit 1 was issued in October of 1970, and for Unit 2 in March of 1973.
9 The unit licenses expire in 2010 and 2013 respectively. The plant
10 capacity is 1,036 Megawatts of base load energy. Point Beach provides
11 approximately 24 percent of the total energy generated by WE Energies
12 and one-sixth of the total energy generated in the State of Wisconsin.

13 Wisconsin nuclear plants have an average five-year
14 capacity factor of 79.9 percent which compares very favorably with the
15 national average of 71.9 percent. Just last year, Point Beach set a
16 record for the most megawatt hours of electrical production since it
17 began operation in 1970. So, we had our best year ever last year in
18 terms of electrical production.

19 At Point Beach, our number one priority is always the
20 health and safety of the public. Point Beach has operated safely and
21 reliably for over 30 years. We are committed to maintaining the high
22 standards of safety and environmental excellence required to operate
23 an additional 20 years.

24 In the past year, we have faced some challenges at Point
25 Beach. We were working very closely with Nuclear Management Company

1 and NRC to address the issues raised by the supplemental NRC
2 inspection conducted during the summer of 2003 and other subsequent
3 discussions. Since Point Beach began operating in 1970, there have
4 been many changes in the industry that show the dedication and
5 commitment to safety and security. The industry has not been
6 satisfied with the status quo.

7 The industry standards and regulations that we abide by
8 and are held accountable to have become more stringent and the
9 inspections more rigorous over the 30-year period that we've been
10 operating. Security has intensified since the tragic events of
11 September 11th, 2001. Safely operating a nuclear plant is not one
12 person's job. It can only be achieved by the dedications that our
13 employees show everyday when they walk through that plant gate.

14 One of my primary responsibilities is to ensure that our
15 customers have safe, reliable and affordable energy that they need.
16 With Wisconsin's energy demand growing about two and a half to three
17 percent each year, Point Beach is vital to meeting the energy needs of
18 our customers. To meet this need, we have an extensive planning
19 process that takes many factors into account, including fuel,
20 infrastructure capabilities, environmental impact, proximity to the
21 load and cost.

22 We believe that a reliable and cost effective power
23 supply is best met by maintaining a diverse fuel mix that includes
24 nuclear. Studies have shown that keeping Point Beach in our diverse
25 energy mix will save customers \$475 million in today's dollars over

1 the next 20 years as compared with replacement power options. If we
2 do not build new generation and transmission facilities and if we do
3 not maintain the existing facilities such as Point Beach, the supply
4 of affordable, reliable energy will be at risk.

5 Point Beach has been an essential part of a generation
6 fleet that has provided WE Energies with the ability to economically
7 meet the daily generation needs of our customers. License renewal
8 will allow WE Energies customers to benefit fully from the efficient
9 power generated by Point Beach for years to come.

10 Access to economical and reliable generation continues
11 to be a front and center issue for the State of Wisconsin. Fuel
12 diversity is the backbone of our goal to provide affordable energy to
13 our customers while continuing to reduce the environmental impact of
14 our operations. In addition to cost effective energy sources, we must
15 also consider the state's transmission infrastructure. Wisconsin's
16 transmission infrastructure is severely constrained in its ability to
17 transport power into the state and move power within the state.

18 The geographic location of Point Beach and the load
19 support it supplies in this part of the state are critical to
20 maintaining a stable, reliable power supply to Northeast Wisconsin.
21 The American Transmission Company's current planning assumes that
22 Point Beach licenses will be renewed. Decommissioning the units and
23 supplying electricity from a different and currently undetermined
24 source would introduce significant changes into the needed
25 transmission infrastructure.

1 Point Beach also generates significant economic benefits
2 to the local and state economy. Point Beach provides over 700 full-
3 time family supporting jobs. These families purchase goods and
4 services from local businesses, pay taxes in local communities and
5 contribute to local charities and community organizations. Point
6 Beach is committed to being a good neighbor and fostering continued
7 economic growth in the region. The continued operation of Point Beach
8 is vital to meeting Wisconsin's energy needs. It's important to the
9 local economy and important to more than 700 employees who keep it
10 running everyday safely.

11 I'd like to thank the comments by the state and local
12 officials, by the NRC for hosting this meeting. And we appreciate the
13 opportunity to participate in this process. Thank you.

14 I think now Jim Shaw who is the Plant Manager and a
15 Nuclear Management Company employee will come up and speak on behalf
16 of Nuclear Management Company.

17 MR. SHAW: Good evening. Thank you, Rick.

18 As plant manager for Point Beach, I'm responsible for
19 the day-to-day operation of the facility on behalf of the Nuclear
20 Management Company. The mission of everyone who works at and supports
21 Point Beach is clear. That mission is safe, reliable and economical
22 operation of the plant, the safety and health of the public and our
23 employees being the number one priority. Our key values include being
24 both a good neighbor and being a strong advocate of the environment in
25 which we operate.

1 The employees of Point Beach are committed to this
2 mission and those key values. All of our employees go through
3 rigorous training and testing sessions to continuously hone their
4 skills and learn new procedures and information. Absolutely no one is
5 exempt from this process. We continuously improve our training based
6 on advancements in technology, best practices through bench-marking
7 not only from the NMC fleet but other industry plants as well, as well
8 as INPO, and feedback from our employees as they identify better ways
9 to gain the skills and knowledge that they need.

10 One example of this training is our control room
11 simulator that is used to train and update our operators and staff
12 members. The NRC requires that employees undergo an intensive
13 training program and a qualification program which utilizes the same
14 simulator to receive an NRC operator's license which qualifies an
15 employee to work in the plant's control room. Our operators have
16 already received their operating licenses, are required to spend five
17 to six weeks each year to maintain that license in order to operate
18 the plant. So, it's a continuing process.

19 We also have extensive processes and detailed procedures
20 that are continuously reviewed and modified to cover every aspect of
21 our operation. There are over 8,800 procedures that cover operations,
22 maintenance, engineering, training, security and emergency response
23 scenarios. In that, our emergency response procedures and drills for
24 example examine just how our employees would react in the event of a
25 real emergency.

1 The emergency plan has only one focus, and that's
2 safety. Safety of the public, safety of our employees and safety of
3 the plant. Emergency response drills are conducted several times a
4 year to test our abilities and carefully examine areas in which we can
5 improve and prevent situations based on a formal plan which is
6 thoroughly reviewed and monitored by federal agencies. The rigorous
7 standards we abide by are set and reviewed thoroughly by the NRC and
8 FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

9 In addition to emergency planning, we also conduct
10 extensive maintenance for the plant. Every 18 months, we undergo a
11 refuel and maintenance outage in which we typically carry out over
12 2,200 individual inspections and maintenance activities. This is in
13 addition to the ongoing maintenance inspection and testing activities
14 that are performed during the period when the plant is operating at
15 full power.

16 Over the years, we have continued to invest in a wide
17 range of equipment to take advantage of improved technology and
18 materials to ensure future reliable and safe operation. A significant
19 investment was the steam generator replacement project for Unit 1 in
20 1984 and Unit 2 in 1996. We have also replaced numerous major
21 components integral to the safe and efficient operation of Point
22 Beach. That would be upgrades in pumps, pipes, valves.

23 As computer training methods have also evolved, we've
24 been able to broaden the range of training to our workforce. As we
25 move forward, we'll continue to upgrade and improve the equipment and

1 technology at Point Beach. Again, that's a continuing and ongoing
2 process.

3 Security at nuclear plants across the nation has
4 received increased emphasis and scrutiny since the events of September
5 11th, 2001. Security at Point Beach is no exception to this and we've
6 taken extensive cautions and implemented new policies and procedures
7 to ensure that the safety and well being of the community and our
8 employees is maintained. This includes several million dollars in
9 additional resources and new equipment. We will continue to work with
10 the NRC to review and evaluate our security procedures to make certain
11 that the most effective methods are being used in our security
12 systems.

13 The operation of Point Beach today and in the future
14 requires commitment and diligence to the everyday task we all perform.
15 Just last year we set a record and this is what Mr. Kuester was
16 talking about, and the reason I'm saying it again is we're really
17 proud of this. We set a record for most megawatt hours of electrical
18 power produced by the plant since it began operation in 1970. That's
19 not only attributed to improved processes and efficiencies but to the
20 plant employees themselves. Last year, the NRC conducted a special
21 inspection and identified several areas for improvement at Point
22 Beach. We submitted an improvement plan to the NRC and are committed
23 to meet or exceed all the requirements of that plan.

24 Point Beach is a strong supporter of the environment.
25 We take great strides in our daily activities to ensure that the

1 environment is well protected. Our employees feel fortunate that
2 Point Beach is located on the shores of Lake Michigan. The site is
3 home to numerous wildlife, aquatic species and plant life. Our
4 efforts have made Point Beach a safe and sound habitat for many years
5 and it is our commitment to maintain that habitat for many years to
6 come.

7 On a different note and as previously noted by other
8 speakers, Point Beach is more than a power plant operated by highly
9 skilled workers. It's part of our community. Not only does the plant
10 rely on many local companies for goods and services, but our employees
11 love and contribute in the surrounding communities.

12 In addition, the Point Beach Energy Information Center
13 has been visited by almost one million people since it opened in May
14 of 1969. The Energy Information Center has provided educational
15 programs for more than 300,000 of these visitors. Most of these are
16 school groups, most of them are local school groups that have made our
17 energy center a staple in their curriculum. We continue to host
18 school groups and other organizations through reservations.

19 NMC remains committed to operating Point Beach safely,
20 reliably and economically and will remain focused on being a good
21 neighbor and a strong advocate of our environment. I and the rest of
22 the employees at Point Beach look forward to serving you and meeting
23 the needs of the community for many years to come. Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Again, Dan, thank you,
25 Rick, for those words. And we're next going to go to Mr. Dan Rahlf

1 from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Hi, Mr. Rahlf.

2 MR. RAHLF: Hello, everybody. I'm actually here
3 speaking not on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical
4 Workers but actually as a community member. I live about 12 miles
5 from Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

6 I spent six years in the nuclear navy prior to starting
7 work there and I've got 18 years working at Point Beach. I started
8 out in operations and I now work in the maintenance area as a mechanic
9 electrician doing preventative and corrective maintenance at Point
10 Beach.

11 We represent at Point Beach 350 members, the
12 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers does, and I'm proud
13 and they are all proud to work at Point Beach. We also are proud to
14 be living in the communities we live in here and feel like we're a
15 real asset to the community. We've been producing safe, reliable,
16 environmentally friendly power for 30 years now, and I believe the
17 right thing to do is have a license extension. Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: And thank you, Mr. Rahlf. Does anybody
19 else have a comment or statement for us? Mr. Nikolai? Do you want to
20 come up here to the podium.

21 MR. NIKOLAI: No.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let me give you this microphone.
23 Here you are.

24 MR. NIKOLAI: I'd like to make one more comment about
25 the necessity for renewing the license of Point Beach Plant for the

1 next 20 years. And I think that the history of available electricity
2 in the United States in the last five or six years to me strongly
3 indicates that if you have to buy electricity from brokers, your cost
4 is just going to skyrocket. And I've seen some of the instances and
5 when you look at California and you look at sometimes even Wisconsin,
6 we had to buy that electricity, our cost just didn't go up here ten
7 percent. That went up like 30, 40, 50 percent from brokers.

8 And I like the philosophy of -- I'm sorry, Mr.
9 President, but the Southern Company which I owned some stock and then
10 you left -- but their philosophy has been to get away from the
11 brokerage business and get back into the business of supplying
12 adequate power to our state and to our community. And that's all I
13 have to say. I think it's necessary that we maintain this plant.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Nikolai. And that
15 was Mr. John Nikolai. All right. Anybody else have a comment or any
16 questions for the NRC staff at all?

17 Okay. Well, thank you very much. And I'm going to ask
18 John Tappert to close the meeting for us. John?

19 MR. TAPPERT: I'd just like to thank everyone again for
20 coming out here and taking time out of your evening to share your
21 thoughts with us. As Barry said earlier, our comment period is open
22 until July 14th and you have our contact information if you want to
23 share any further thoughts with us. So, thanks again for coming.
24 Drive home safely and have a good evening.

25 (Whereupon the meeting was concluded at 8:07 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings
before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
in the matter of:

Name of Proceeding: Point Beach License Renewal

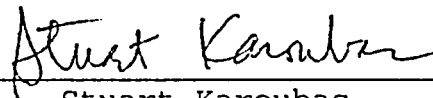
Public Meeting

Evening Session

Docket Number: n/a

Location: Mishicot, WI

were held as herein appears, and that this is the
original transcript thereof for the file of the United
States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and,
thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the
direction of the court reporting company, and that the
transcript is a true and accurate record of the
foregoing proceedings.



Stuart Karoubas
Official Reporter
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**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING LICENSE RENEWAL FOR
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
UNITS 1 AND 2**

WHEREAS, the electric generating facilities at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant became operational with the start-up of Unit 1 in December 1970 and Unit 2 in March 1973; and

WHEREAS, Point Beach has since that time operated safely and efficiently, providing economical, reliable electrical energy vital to Wisconsin's economy; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Energy Corporation, as owner of Point Beach, has continually reinvested in the facility, to assure continued efficient and economical production of electricity for Wisconsin's homes, factories and businesses;

WHEREAS, today, over three decades later, the Point Beach plant's 1036 megawatts of electrical generating capacity remain vital to Wisconsin's energy future; and

WHEREAS, Point Beach Plant in 2003, its thirty-first year of full operation, generated a record 8.1 million megawatt hours of electricity; and

WHEREAS, the Point Beach plant's 700 permanent jobs, as well as its extensive use of contractors for ongoing maintenance and special projects are recognized as vitally important to the economy of Manitowoc County and northeast Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear power facilities at Point Beach have been a "good neighbor" to the communities of Manitowoc County for over three decades;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Energy Corporation in December of 2003 announced its intent to proceed with an application to renew the licenses of the Point Beach reactors, each for an additional twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear Management Company, operator of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant for Wisconsin Energy Corporation, on February 25, 2004 submitted the license renewal application to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); and

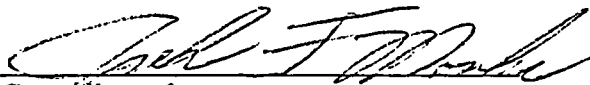
WHEREAS, the NRC, as the Federal agency charged with oversight of our nation's nuclear facilities, encourages public input and comment on such license renewal proceedings;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Two Rivers hereby expresses its support for the renewal of the licenses for the nuclear generating facilities at Point Beach, to assure their continued operation as a safe, economical and integrally important component of Wisconsin's electric power supply system for another 20 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Governor James Doyle, Senator Alan Lasee, Senator Joe Liebham, Representative Frank Lasee and Representative Bob Ziegelbauer and other agencies and officeholders concerned with providing safe, reliable and economical energy sources for the future of the Wisconsin economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution likewise be forwarded to Chairman of the Board & CEO Richard A. Abdoo, President Gale E. Klappa, and other officials of Wisconsin Energy Corporation, in evidence of this community's support for the utility's continued investment in and operation of the Point Beach facility.

Approved this 5th day of April, 2004.


Councilmember


Gregory E. Buckley, City Manager



TWO RIVERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

June 14, 2004

RE: License Renewal for Point Beach Nuclear Plant

To Whom It May Concern:

The Two Rivers Business Association would like to go on record as to being in favor of We Energies' request for the License Renewal of the two nuclear reactors at Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

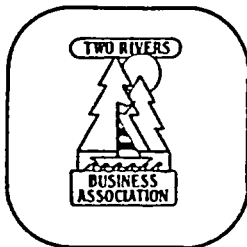
There are many reasons why we feel it is important that Point Beach's License Renewal be granted. The first are obvious and the most practical. Point Beach now produces 1/6 of all the electrical power in Wisconsin. And the demand for that energy is growing at 2 to 3 % per year. Where would we go and what would we do to make up this 16 to 17 % of our energy needs should Point Beach be closed? Building new plants would certainly drive up the cost of our electricity. Going out of state for it would also.

We Energies estimates through its studies that keeping Point Beach open would save customers over \$400 million. That is a huge economic impact for the state of Wisconsin.

Our local economy in the Lakeshore Area would suffer even more if Point Beach Nuclear Plant were closed. In fact, I know it would be devastating for our local economy, one that has been hit hard recently with other manufacturing plant closings. Point Beach employs 730 people; 69% live in Manitowoc County.

For the most part, I don't think the people of Two Rivers have safety and environmental concerns regarding Point Beach Nuclear Plant. The people who work at the plant are also our neighbors and friends. And they would no more put their own families in danger than they would anyone else's. The Plant is run well, it is run efficiently, and it is run with extreme safety in mind at all times.

We Energies and the people who work there have always been good neighbors. The people who work there are members of our churches and church councils, our schools and our school boards, our city and city council and civic committees. They shop in our stores, they buy homes, and they all pay taxes. To lose them would be devastating for our community.



TWO RIVERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

We Energies as a company has also been a good neighbor. They purchase goods for the plant and their employees locally whenever they can. We Energies supports many local charities and events. It is a major sponsor for Two Rivers very popular Ethnic Festival.

Thus, we urge you for all the above reasons to grant We Energies their License Renewal for Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Sincerely,

Tim Schroeder
Secretary/Treasurer
Two Rivers Business Association

Secretary/Treasurer
Schroeder's Department Store

VILLAGE OF MISHICOT

State of Wisconsin
Manitowoc County

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING LICENSE RENEWAL FOR
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
UNITS 1 AND 2**

511 E. Main St.
P. O. Box 385
Mishicot, WI 54228-0385
Telephone: 920.755.2525
Fax: 920.755.2525
e-mail vmishicot@lakefield.net
www.mishicot.org

WHEREAS, the electric generating facilities at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant became operational with the start-up of Unit 1 in December 1970 and Unit 2 in March 1973, and

WHEREAS, Point Beach has since that time operated safely and efficiently, providing economical, reliable electrical energy vital to Wisconsin's economy, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin energy corporation, as owner of Point Beach, has continually reinvested in the facility, to assure continued efficient and economical production of electricity for Wisconsin's homes, factories and businesses, and

WHEREAS, today over three decades later, the Point Beach plant's 1036 megawatts of electrical generating capacity remain vital to Wisconsin's energy future, and

WHEREAS, Point Beach in 2003, its thirty-first year of full operation generated a record 8.1 million megawatt hours of electricity, and

WHEREAS, the Point Beach Plant's 700 permanent jobs, as well as its extensive use of contractors for ongoing maintenance and special projects are recognized as vitally important to the economy of Manitowoc County and northeast Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the nuclear power facilities at Point Beach have been a "good neighbor" to the communities of Manitowoc County for over three decades, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Energy Corporation in December of 2003 announced its intent to proceed with an application to renew the license of the Point Beach reactors, each for an additional twenty years, and

WHEREAS, Nuclear Management Company, operator of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant for Wisconsin Energy Corporation, on February 25, 2004 submitted the license renewal application to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and

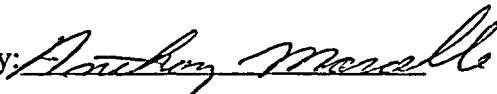
WHEREAS, the NRC, as the Federal agency charged with oversight of our nation's nuclear facilities, encourages public input and comment on such license renewal proceedings; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Village of Mishicot hereby expresses its support for the renewal of the licenses for the nuclear generating facilities at Point Beach, to assure their continued operation as a safe, economical and integrally important component of Wisconsin's electric power supply system for another 20 years.

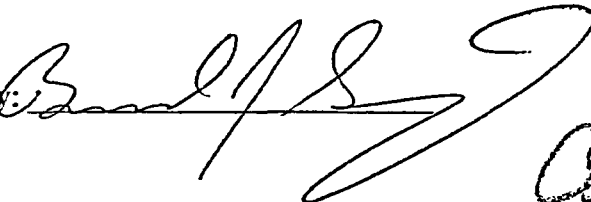
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Governor James Doyle, Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton, Senator Herbert Kohl, Senator Russ Feingold, Representative Tom Petri, Representative Mark Green, Senator Alan Lasee, Senator Joe Liebham, Senator Dave Hansen, Senator Robert Cowles, Representative Frank Lasee, Representative Bob Ziegelbauer, Representative Becky Weber, Representative Phil Montgomery and other agencies and officeholders concerned with providing safe, reliable and economical energy sources for the future of the Wisconsin economy.

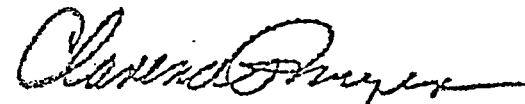
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Chairman of the Board and CEO Richard A. Abdoo, President Gale E. Klappa, and other officials of Wisconsin Energy Corporation, in evidence of the Village of Mishicot's support for the utility's continued investment in and operation of the Point Beach facility.

Presented by:



Seconded by:



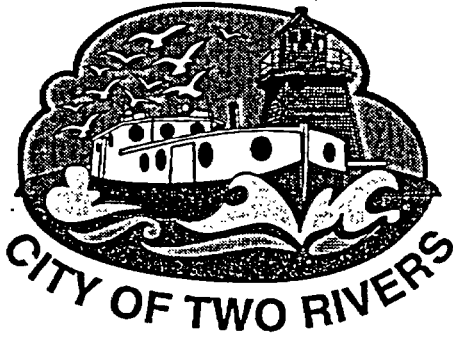

Clarence P. Meyer, Village President

Attest:


James Bydalek, Village Clerk-Treasurer

I, James Bydalek, Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Mishicot do hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by a unanimous vote of the Village Board of the Village of Mishicot on the 4th day of May, 2004.


James Bydalek, Village Clerk-Treasurer



Economic Development
1717 East Park Street
Post Office Box 87
Two Rivers WI 54241-0087
Telephone 920/793-5565
FAX..... 920/793-5563

Point Beach License Renewal
June 15, 2004, Mishicot, WI

Introduction

The City of Two Rivers offers its support for Point Beach Nuclear Power (PBNP) plant License Renewal for Unit 1, which needs to be renewed by October 5, 2010 and Unit 2 which needs to be renewed by March 8, 2013. The City of Two Rivers has passed a Resolution of Support of PBNP License Renewal dated April 5, 2004. Such Resolution of support is attached from the Two Rivers City Council.

Past

- PBNP has called Two Rivers home since 1969 and has come to be vital to our economy and lifestyle.
- PBNP initially started in 1969 with about 100 employees and has seen a 700% increase in its' workforce to the existing 700 employees in 2004. Energy production is a significant employer in our community now and hopefully will be well into the future. These are high quality jobs that are hard to find in today's economy.
- Nuclear energy in general and Point Beach in particular, have proven to be safe, efficient and an economical source of electricity.

Present

- The City "fathers" who are the Leaders and Decision-makers of the Community find that PBNP has operated safely and efficiently and provides clean affordable nuclear generated electrical power to our homes, businesses and factories.
- PBNP is an environmentally friendly source of electrical base load power as compared to other forms of electrical generation.
- PBNP generates 1,036 Mega Watts of electrical power, which is 24% of we energies generation and almost 17% of all power in the state of Wisconsin.
- The state as a whole can not afford to loose 17% of its' total capacity.
- The economic impact of 700 employees can be felt in the local communities where they live. 69% of the PBNP employees live in Manitowoc County. Of that amount 32% live in Two Rivers and 24% live in Manitowoc, 8% in Mishicot.
- Manitowoc County has been hit hard on the economic front by having factories close at a fast pace. The Manitowoc County a population of 83,000 with a workforce of about 44,000 and a 9.3% unemployment rate. Mirro, a Manitowoc employer that formerly had plants in Two Rivers, had over 2,000 employees as recently as 1998. Today that number is zip, nada. Those jobs are gone, never to



return. Paragon Electric at one time has 1,000 employees. They left for Mexico in 1998 leaving 330 employees without a job. More recently Hamilton, a subsidiary of Fisher Scientific announced a potential layoff of 150 employees. All the previous companies relocated to Mexico or in Hamilton's case has the potential to leave for Mexico. Power companies do not have the luxury of leaving for Mexico. They are here for the long haul.

- PBNP has been a "good corporate citizen" by annually contributing to the excellent quality of life for the families here in Two Rivers.

Future

- Wisconsin electrical power increases on average 2 ½ % to 3% per year.
- If PBNP's license is not renewed, its' electrical generation capacity will have to be replaced. The likely replacement is some sort of fossil fuel. As air quality becomes more and more of an issue in Wisconsin and especially along the Lakeshore which sees much of it's' pollution imported; License Renewal of PBNP can serve to help protect our local environment.
- This process of License Renewal is not new for the nuclear regulatory Commission (NRC). PBNP is one of 19 active license renewal cases. As a matter of fact 23 License Renewals have already been approved by the NRC. Our experience indicates the PBNP is an excellent candidate for license renewal.

Conclusion

The License Renewal of PBNP presents a unique opportunity to create a win-win-win scenario for the rate payers, taxpayers, the state and our community by:

1. Continuously producing less expensive base load electrical power for all to use in an environmentally clean and responsible manner.
2. Preserving hundreds of well-paying jobs that help attract young and successful people to Wisconsin and the Lakeshore area.
3. we energies wins by owning and operating PBNP.

The families of PBNP have become a vital and vibrant part of our community. They serve on our elected and appointed government bodies, volunteer with our civic groups, are important members and leaders of our churches and our children go to school together. These employees care about the community because they live, work and play here too. The community has formed a bond of trust with PBNP because the plant, over many years, has proven to be a good neighbor and an important driver in our economy. We urge the NRC to approve the License Renewal for PBNP in order that all stakeholders can share in the win-win-win relationship.

If you have any further comments or questions you may contact me at 920/793-5564 or email at danpaw@two-rivers.org.

Sincerely,



Dan Pawlitzke

Economic Development Supervisor

Ecdev/PowerPlant/PBNP.LisenseRenewal2004.doc